

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method for open systems printing comprising:
2 routing print jobs automatically from different
3 types of source computers to different types of printers
4 without the source computers selecting printers for each
5 print job.
- 1 2. A method for open systems printing comprising:
2 routing print jobs automatically from an arbitrary
3 number of source computers to an arbitrary number of
4 printers without the source computers selecting printers for
5 each print job.
- 1 3. The method of claims 1 or 2, wherein routing
2 includes:
3 sending the print jobs from the source computers to
4 a print server; and
5 sending the print jobs from the print server to
6 output managers connected to the printers.
- 1 4. The method of claim 3, wherein the print jobs
2 are sent from the source computers to the print server over
3 a first network and the print jobs are sent from the print
4 server to the output managers over a second network.
- 1 5. The method of claim 4, wherein the first network
2 comprises a TCP/IP network and the second network comprises
3 a local area network.
- 1 6. The method of claim 3, further comprising:
2 transforming data in the print jobs into a format
3 compatible with the printers.
- 1 7. The method of claim 6, wherein the data is
2 transformed by the print server.
- 1 8. The method of claim 6, wherein the data is
2 transformed by the output managers.

1 9. The method of claim 3, further comprising, after
2 sending the print jobs from the source computers to the
3 print server:

4 storing the print jobs in a server spool coupled to
5 the print server.

1 10. The method of claim 3, further comprising,
2 before sending the print jobs from the print server to the
3 output managers:

4 manipulating data in the print jobs.

1 11. The method of claim 3, further comprising
2 before sending the print jobs from the print server to the
3 output managers:

4 merging at least two of the print jobs into a single
5 print job.

1 12. The method of claim 3, further comprising:
2 printing the print jobs on paper.

1 13. The method of claim 3, further comprising:
2 sending the print jobs to an electronic mail system.

1 14. The method of claim 3, further comprising:
2 recording the print jobs on microfiche.

1 15. The method of claim 3, further comprising:
2 recording the print jobs on laser disk.

1 16. The method of claims 1 or 2, wherein each of
2 the print jobs include at least two reports and routing
3 includes:

4 sending the print jobs from the source computers to
5 a print server; and

6 sending individual reports from the print server to
7 output managers connected to the printers.

1 17. The method of claim 3, further comprising,
2 after sending the print jobs from the source computers to
3 the print server:

4 bringing the source computers down for maintenance
while printing the print jobs.

1 18. A method for printing comprising:
2 controlling printing of print jobs on high-speed
3 production printers through a graphical user interface.

1 19. The method of claim 18, further comprising:
2 receiving the print jobs at a print server coupled
3 to the graphical user interface; and

4 listing the received print jobs in the graphical
5 user interface.

1 20. The method of claim 19, wherein controlling
2 further includes:

3 selecting a print job from the list of received
4 print jobs;

5 determining if a printer coupled to the print server
6 has a set-up compatible with the selected print job's set-
7 up; and

8 sending the selected print job from the print server
9 to an output manager connected to the printer.

1 21. The method of claim 20, wherein selecting
2 includes:

3 dragging-and-dropping the selected print job from
4 the list of print jobs onto a printer icon.

1 22. The method of claim 21, further comprising:
2 preventing the drag-and-drop of the selected print
3 job if the printer set-up is determined to be incompatible
4 with the selected print job's set-up.

1 23. A print server for use with different types of
2 source computers and different types of printers, the print
3 server directs print jobs received from the source computers
4 to the printers without the source computers selecting
5 printers for each print job.

1 24. A print server for use with an arbitrary number
2 of similar types of source computers and an arbitrary number
3 of similar types of printers, the print server directs print
4 jobs received from the source computers to the printers
5 without the source computers selecting printers for each
6 print job.

1 25. The print server of claims 23 or 24,
2 comprising:

3 an input receiver coupled to the source computers,
4 the input receiver receives the print jobs from the source
5 computers;

6 a server spool coupled to the input receiver, the
7 server spool stores received print jobs;

8 a queue manager coupled to the server spool and the
9 input receiver, the queue manager directs each of the print
10 jobs to a selected one of the printers through an output
11 manager; and

12 a data transformer coupled to the server spool, the
13 data transformer converts data in print jobs into a format
14 compatible with the corresponding selected printers.

1 26. An open systems printing environment comprising

2 a source computer connected to a first network;

3 a print server connected to the first network and a
4 second network;

5 an output manager connected to the second network;

6 and

7 a printer connected to the output manager, the print
8 server directs print jobs generated by the source computer
9 to the printer.

1 27. The open systems printing environment of claim
2 26, further comprising:

3 a server spool coupled to the printer server.

1 28. The open systems printing environment of claim
2 26, further comprising:
3 a graphical user interface coupled to the print
4 server.